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(54) **MANAGING, ACCESSING, AND
RETRIEVING NETWORKED INFORMATION
USING PHYSICAL OBJECTS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE NETWORKED INFORMATION**

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709/218, 246; 710/7**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method, apparatus, and article of manufacture for managing information through the use of physical objects. An Informative Thing that is a physical object stores a pointer thereon, and the pointer is used to retrieve information associated with the Informative Thing from a network-based system. The Informative Thing provides a user interface that gives the impression of storing information on the physical object, when, in reality, the system stores the information in the network. By hiding the details of information retrieval, information management is greatly simplified. By linking the physical and virtual worlds, users' highly-developed ability to work in the real world is leveraged.

80 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

